

MEDICATION SAFETY

ASK YOUR DOCTOR AND PHARMACIST ABOUT THE MEDICINE. What is the name, benefits and possible side effects or reactions with other medications or food/beverages?

WHAT IS IT? Make sure you know the name and color of the medicine. Take medicine in well-lit areas.

WHAT IS IT FOR? Make sure you know why the medicine is being taken.

HOW DO I TAKE IT? Ask the doctor or pharmacist to explain how and when to take your medicine.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR? Ask what the results should be and possible reactions.

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR PRESCRIPTION. Before you leave the pharmacy, check your medicine to make sure it was prepared for you. Speak up before you leave because pharmacies typically do not take back medicine once it has been purchased.

DISCUSS PREVIOUS ALLERGIES OR REACTIONS. Make sure the doctors, nurses and pharmacists know about any allergies or reactions to drugs you or your family member might have.

BRING YOUR MEDICINES OR A LIST TO EVERY APPOINTMENT. Include over-the-counter, herbal or dietary drugs.

DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICINES SAFELY. The “Take It to the Box” program promotes the safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal of unneeded and prescription medications. A drug disposal box is available 24/7 at the Aitkin County Sheriff’s Office (west side of courthouse in entryway), 118 3rd Ave NW, Aitkin.